

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Preferably, the hydroxypropylguar utilizable ~~utilisable~~ for the realization of the present invention is reticulated with from 0.3 to 1.5% by weight of glyoxal, and more preferably with from 0.4 to 0.8% by weight of glyoxal, the amount of glyoxal being determined by reaction with 2- hydrazono-2,3- dihydro-3-methylbenzothiazole hydrochloride, according to the method described in "Kunststoffe im Lebensmittelverkehr" Ed. Carl Heymanns Verlag KG, 1999, p 228-231. For the purposes of the present invention, the term "reticulated" and its variants means crosslinked.